

~~Secret~~

November 21, 1979

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

SAUDI ARABIA: Disturbance in Mecca

The occupation of the major mosque in Mecca by unidentified Muslim extremists apparently continued as of early today. [REDACTED]

Riyadh radio acknowledged the seizure for the first time this morning, but it identified the perpetrators only as "renegades against the Islamic religion" who have presented one of their group as the messiah. The broadcast did not claim that Saudi National Guard units had recaptured the mosque. [REDACTED]

Shooting has occurred, with reports of casualties on both sides. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The attack also coincides with the start of the Muslim mourning month of Moharram--an event of special importance to Shias. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
07-24-2008

~~Secret~~